

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Lindsey Thomas (lindsey@vollmerpr.com)
(713) 248-8782 (cell)
Lauren Coke-Walters (lauren@vollmerpr.com)
(713) 444-2736 (cell)
VOLLMER
(713) 970-2100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY –
18TH ANNUAL UPTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTING WILL ONCE AGAIN
IGNITE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN THE HEARTS OF THOUSANDS**

Music, Parade, Lights, Fireworks, Santa, Families and More!

HOUSTON (Nov. 14, 2003) – On Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 27, the 18th Annual Uptown Holiday Lighting will unite Houstonians and out-of-town guests for a traditional holiday celebration, featuring more than a half-million twinkling lights, festive holiday music, a fabulous stage show, a dazzling fireworks extravaganza and a special appearance by Santa Claus. Also, making a return debut is a sparkling Electric Light Parade, presenting a collection of holiday-themed floats and characters.

Held in Uptown Houston on Post Oak Boulevard between San Felipe and Westheimer, from 4 to 8 p.m., this family tradition once again promises to ignite the holiday spirit in the hearts of those who attend.

“Uptown Holiday Lighting has truly become an annual family tradition for residents throughout the greater Houston area and visitors from all over Texas and beyond,” said John Breeding, Uptown Houston Association president. “I believe families continue to attend the event because it offers them an opportunity to get out of the house after a Thanksgiving feast, stretch their legs and enjoy a great show.”

THE 18TH ANNUAL UPTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTING . . ./add 1

Thousands of Houstonians and out-of-town guests will join to celebrate the arrival of the holiday season with a magical holiday feast for the eyes, ears and heart. Uptown Holiday Lighting is free and open to the public.

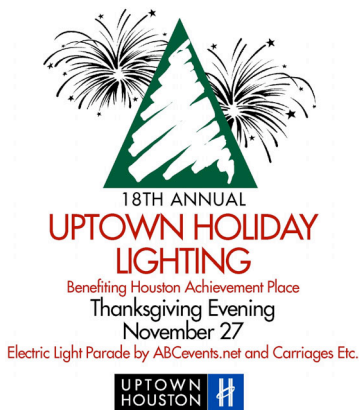
The annual holiday tradition also positively impacts the lives of Houstonians, young and old alike, assisted by Houston Achievement Place (HAP), as a percentage of the concession proceeds will benefit this worthwhile organization. For more information on HAP, visit www.h-a-p.org.

This year, Uptown Holiday Lighting is being presented by ABCevents.net, Carriages Etc., Time Warner Cable-Houston, Landry's Restaurants, Inc. and Sunny 99.1. Additional sponsors include: CenterPoint Energy, Crescent Real Estate Equities, Ltd., DoubleTree Hotel Post Oak, Fiesta Mart, Colgate, Tomball Ford, Stewart Title, Apache Corporation, The Galleria Chamber of Commerce, Southern National Bank and KB Home.

For more information on Uptown Holiday Lighting, visit www.uptown-houston.com or call the information hotline at 713-621-2504.

The 18th Annual Uptown Holiday Lighting is produced by the Uptown Houston Association, a private, non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation.

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UPTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4 p.m.

- ◆ **Holiday Music and Concessions** - Families can arrive early to enjoy the sounds of their favorite holiday tunes played by the Houston Concert Band. They also can savor the flavors of the holidays; funnel cakes, roasted corn, turkey legs and kettle corn are just a few of the scrumptious foods that will be sold at area concession stands.

5:30 p.m.

- ◆ **Holiday Greetings** - Elected officials will begin Uptown Holiday Lighting with a greeting to Houstonians and out-of-town visitors.
- ◆ **Uptown Holiday Lighting Stage Show** - This traditional, yet multi-cultural show is being emceed by Sunny 99.1's Zoe Bonet and will highlight performances by the Houston Concert Band as well as a variety of other performers.

6 p.m.

- ◆ **Electric Light Parade** - Making a return debut is Uptown Houston's own Electric Light Parade, featuring a collection of holiday-themed floats and characters.

6:30 p.m.

- ◆ **Uptown Holiday Lighting Stage Show continues**

7:10 p.m.

- ◆ **Holiday Sing-A-Long**
- ◆ **Uptown Holiday Lighting** - With more than a half-million twinkling lights, 80 Christmas trees along Post Oak Boulevard and the simultaneous lighting of more than 50 building rooftops, Santa Claus, with the help of audience participation, will light up Houston's skyline and herald the arrival of the holiday season.

7:20 p.m.

- ◆ **Dazzling Fireworks Extravaganza** - A dazzling holiday fireworks extravaganza is choreographed to holiday music.